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French there is no such thing as word-stress or word-division,"<sup>12</sup> and that "en anglais on peut distinguer *an aim* (ə'n'eim) de *a name* (ə'neim)."<sup>13</sup>

In short, this little book is decidedly interesting; but, in order to profit by the good things it offers, a student must possess such a knowledge of French pronunciation as will permit him to use the sources from which the Perfect French Possible is drawn. And in that case, as the proverb goes, *Il vaut mieux s'adresser au bon Dieu qu'à ses saints*.

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## CORRESPONDENCE

### A SYNTACTICAL NOTE

To the Editors of *Mod. Lang. Notes*,

SIRS:—In *Critical Contributions to Early English Syntax, Second Series* (Christiania, 1910), § 50, Dr. A. Trampe Bødtker calls attention to the opinions of Onions and Jespersen that the position of the preposition after the verb in a relative clause in ME., as in Orm 3472 f.,

... patt land  
patt Crist wass borenn inne,

is due to Scandinavian influence, and shows that the corresponding construction is found in OE. in a few cases. He also shows that the shift in order of relative verb and preposition is illustrated by the infinitive construction. In my paper on the syntax of the infinitive in Chaucer (*Chaucer Soc., Second Series*, 44, London, 1909), p. 29, I have quoted from Wülfling several OE. examples of the kind, and on pp. 33–34 I cite a large number of examples from Chaucer that show the shift of the preposition to a place after the infinitive. This seems to corroborate Bødtker's view that foreign influence need not be assumed in order to account for the construction.

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### NEVER LESS ALONE THAN WHEN ALONE

To the Editors of *Mod. Lang. Notes*,

SIRS:—'Who now reads Cowley?' asks Pope. 'Read all Cowley,' advises Wordsworth. A part of the erudition that has been displayed in *Modern Language Notes* (24. 54, 123; 25. 28, 96) concerning the phrase, 'Never less alone than when alone,' might have been spared by following the injunction of Wordsworth. I quote a passage

from Cowley's essay, *Of Solitude* (*Essays and Plays of Abraham Cowley*, ed. A. R. Waller, p. 392):

*Nunquam minus solus, quam cum solus*, is now become a very vulgar saying. Every Man and almost every Boy for these seventeen hundred years, has had it in his mouth. But it was first spoken by the Excellent *Scipio*, who was without question a most Eloquent and Witty person, as well as the most Wise, most Worthy, most Happy, and the Greatest of all Mankind. His meaning no doubt was this, That he found more satisfaction to his mind, and more improvement of it by Solitude than by Company, and to shew that he spoke not this loosely or out of vanity, after he had made *Rome*, Mistriss of almost the whole World, he retired himself from it by a voluntary exile, and at a private house in the middle of a wood near *Linternum*, passed the remainder of his Glorious life no less Gloriously.

The description of Scipio's place of retirement is borrowed from Seneca (*Epist.* 86).

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## BRIEF MENTION

The first number of an Italian quarterly review, *Studi Critici di Filologia e Glottologia*, has recently appeared, with Teofilo Petriella as editor.<sup>1</sup> It is also announced that the Abbé Roussetot and H. Pernot are in charge of a new journal of experimental phonetics, the *Revue de phonétique*, which will be published in Paris.

Professor Friedrich Hanssen, of the University of Chile, has been known to us chiefly through his short studies on individual points of Old Spanish grammar and versification. Now we have the culmination of these shorter articles in the form of a *Spanische Grammatik auf historische Grundlage*,<sup>2</sup> which is a masterpiece of scholarship and patient research. While the Castilian and other dialects of Spain form the basis of the grammar, the author makes extensive use of the American Spanish dialects as corroborative material. In addition to the detailed study of phonology and morphology, the book is noteworthy for the treatment of syntax. The fund of illustrative material ranges from the earliest Spanish monuments to such recent authors as Blasco Ibañez, Valera, Echegaray, etc. An excellent word-index completes the volume.

<sup>1</sup> Naples: Discesa Sanità 20. Subscription, 15 lire per year.

<sup>2</sup> Sammlung kurzer Lehrbücher der romanischen Sprachen und Literaturen, VI. Halle: Max Niemeyer, 1910. 8vo., 278 pp.

<sup>12</sup> Sweet, *A Primer of Phonetics*, p. 95.

<sup>13</sup> Passy, *Les Sons du Français*, p. 61.